

The Beast From the Sea

Revelation 13:1–10 • Pastor Raul Granillo • October 18, 2026

Today's Text

“And I saw **a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads**. ...And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. ...They worshiped the beast, saying, **‘Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?’** ...Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”

— Revelation 13:1–2, 4, 10

Big Idea

The beast from the sea is every empire and power that claims the authority that belongs only to God. John blends Daniel's four beasts into one to say that every nation that makes itself ultimate is the same beast, and it serves the dragon.

Key Truth

The dragon did not create the beast. We did. When people try to bring order out of chaos without submitting to God, they build monsters out of the very chaos they meant to escape, layer by layer, out of fear, ambition, and the lust for power.

What John Sees in Revelation 13:1–10

SCENE	WHAT JOHN SEES	WHAT IT MEANS FOR US
THE BEAST RISES (v.1)	A beast rising out of the sea with seven heads, ten horns, and ten diadems, with blasphemous names on its heads.	It rises over time from the sea of chaos, and it is still rising. Ten diadems, not seven: it is powerful, but it serves the dragon.
DANIEL'S BEASTS IN ONE (v.2)	Like a leopard, with feet like a bear and a mouth like a lion. The dragon gives it his power, his throne, and great authority.	Daniel's beasts were Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. John makes them one beast: every empire that has existed or will exist.
THE HEALED WOUND (v.3)	One head seems to receive a death blow, but the wound is healed, and the whole earth follows the beast in amazement.	Empires fall and another rises to take their place. The beast mimics the resurrection, but nations are not raised. They are replaced.
“WHO IS LIKE THE BEAST?” (v.4–6)	The people worship the dragon and the beast. It is given a mouth that speaks arrogance and blasphemy against God's name.	A parody of “Who is like you, O LORD?” (Ex 15:11). When a nation uses God's name to justify sin, it speaks the blasphemy of the beast.
WAR ON THE SAINTS (v.7–10)	It makes war on the saints and is worshiped by all whose names are not in the Lamb's book of life. “If you kill with the sword...”	We don't fight the beast with the beast's weapons. The call is endurance, not conquest. The church that trades the cross for a flag has already lost.

Define This

Tohu va-bohu & Tehom — In Genesis 1:2 the earth was **tohu va-bohu**, “formless and void,” complete chaos, and darkness covered **tehom**, “the deep.” In the presence of God, chaos finds order. Apart from God, everything we build reverts to chaos, and the beast rises from that same sea.

Quote to Remember

“No one can be God but God. When the state seeks to be God, it does not become divine, it becomes demonic.” — Darrell Johnson

Take It Home — Reflection

- Where am I trying to bring order to my life, my family, or my world by looking to myself or to a system instead of to God?
- Have I become so invested in a nation, party, or leader that I defend it when it acts against the ways of God? Where have I turned a blind eye?
- Fear asks, “Who can fight against it?” Where is fear tempting me to trust in power, and what would enduring faithfulness look like this week?

My Notes